

Below Normal Temperatures

Six days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ending August 22, according to the USDA-NASS-Michigan Statistical Office. Continued unseasonably cool temperatures were again the norm across most of the State. Dry conditions were also becoming a serious concern in several districts. Average temperatures for the week ranged from 7 degrees below normal in the northeast and west central Lower Peninsula to 5 degrees below normal in eastern Upper Peninsula and northwest Lower Peninsula. Precipitation amounts ranged from 0.03 inches in the east central Lower Peninsula to 0.58 inches in the eastern Upper Peninsula. An operator in the southeast commented, “Soils are starting to dry out, but with the cool temperatures, crops aren’t showing signs of stress yet.” A farmer in the northwest summed up the sentiments for many growers across the State, “Cold and dry conditions just don’t grow crops.”

Field Crops

Cool temperatures continued last week across the State which slowed crop development down for many field crops. Soil moisture levels decreased due to the lack of precipitation in most areas around the State. **Hay** cutting has improved in the past week. Second cutting looked good. Third cutting harvest progressed nicely, but rain is needed. **Corn** growth was slowed down because of the lack of warmer weather. Corn fields continued to be variable. The **soybean** crop continued to advance slowly with good color. **Sugarbeets** continued to progress. Reports of cercospora leafspot were limited. **Dry beans** looked good but were behind schedule. **Oat** harvest continued.

Soil moisture for week ending 08/22/04

Stratum	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Topsoil	16	35	49	0
Subsoil	9	33	57	1

Crop condition for week ending 08/22/04

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All Hay	4	12	36	38	10
Barley	1	5	34	47	13
Corn	6	14	32	36	12
Dry beans	7	12	36	39	6
Oats	4	9	33	45	9
Pasture	6	17	38	32	7
Soybeans	5	8	34	42	11

Fruit

Despite below normal growing degree days, fruit crop progress remained ahead of normal. Insect pressure was generally less than average due to below normal maximum daily temperatures. High populations of European red mites, however, were noted in some orchards. **Apple** growers harvested Paula Red and Ginger Golds. McIntosh harvest will begin in about one week. **Peach** harvesting continued. Jersey and Rubel **blueberry** harvests neared completion and Elliott harvesting was underway. The harvest of Niagara **grapes** will begin about September 7; Concord harvest will start about ten days later. The **tart cherry** harvest ended. The fruit quality was excellent in the northwest initially, but there was a significant volume of soft and wind-damaged fruit later in the harvest. Growers were encouraged to prune mature cherry trees to minimize constantly shaded lower canopies. **Fall raspberry** maturity was ahead of schedule, so harvest will begin early.

Vegetables

Growers continue to harvest a wide variety of crops across the State. However, the continued cool temperatures slowed the maturity and advancement of vegetables. **Potato** digging was underway in several districts. Harvest volume was expected to pick up in the next week. **Sweet corn** harvest continued Statewide. Processing **tomato** harvest picked up in the southeast although progress was hampered by the cool weather and scattered rain showers late in the week. Fresh market picking continued. **Snap bean** harvest was underway in the west central. **Carrot** harvest in full swing in the west central and progressing in the southeast. **Celery** harvest moved along on schedule, with more than 40 percent of the crop picked. **Pepper** harvest started in the west central and continued in the southern districts. **Spinach** planting for fall harvest wrapped up in the west central. **Cucumber** and **zucchini** harvest moved along. Growers continued to report pollination problems in vine crops. **Watermelon** harvest started in the southwest.

Crop progress for week ending 08/22/04

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All hay, second cutting	82	73	93	89
All hay, third cutting	29	17	29	30
Blueberries, harvested	88	85	82	NA
Corn, silked	89	80	99	99
Corn, dough	37	20	35	37
Corn, dent	2	NA	2	9
Dry beans, blooming	99	94	99	99
Dry beans, setting pods	88	57	84	89
Dry beans, turning leaves	6	1	12	NA
Oats, harvested	70	41	77	86
Peaches, harvested	51	42	NA	NA
Soybeans, blooming	94	87	98	98
Soybeans, setting pods	82	60	88	88
Soybeans, turning leaves	1	1	1	4

Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 08/22/04 ¹												
Station	Temperature			Cumulative growing degree days ²			Precipitation					
	Maximum	Minimum	Departure from normal	2004	2003	Normal	This week	Last two weeks	Last four weeks	Since April 1	Normal	
											Since April 1	For month
Ironwood	75	39		1,300	1,602		0.43	1.61	2.75	16.82		
Marquette	78	37		1,220	1,533		0.28	1.17	1.83	15.44		
Stephenson	80	34		1,493	1,792		0.47	0.63	0.91	16.11		
Western UP	80	34	-6	1,313	1,602	1,511	0.36	1.30	2.33	14.79	15.07	3.69
Cornell	80	38		1,346	1,703		0.87	1.99	4.83	16.22		
Sault St Marie	74	42		1,093	1,512		0.83	2.05	2.29	14.47		
Eastern UP	80	36	-5	1,150	1,489	1,316	0.58	1.43	2.43	13.93	14.22	3.53
Beulah	77	42		1,560	1,739		0.59	1.29	1.63	17.34		
Lake City	79	34		1,532	1,677		0.01	0.35	0.37	14.90		
Old Mission	79	41		1,450	1,711		0.05	1.43	1.75	15.53		
Pellston	78	31		1,417	1,655		0.73	1.95	2.27	12.66		
Northwest	79	31	-5	1,446	1,663	1,704	0.32	1.27	1.61	14.82	13.35	3.11
Alpena	79	36		1,472	1,645		0.21	1.01	1.80	14.19		
Houghton Lake	78	31		1,606	1,781		0.01	0.53	0.76	14.42		
Rogers City	79	35		1,450	1,698		0.30	0.93	1.22	14.18		
Northeast	80	31	-7	1,526	1,729	1,653	0.27	0.83	1.15	14.39	13.45	3.12
Fremont	77	40		1,791	1,994		0.09	0.42	0.60	15.03		
Hart	77	38		1,656	1,838		0.55	1.01	1.10	17.57		
Muskegon	77	42		1,803	2,012		0.28	0.44	1.80	19.17		
West Central	78	37	-7	1,716	1,904	1,860	0.35	0.74	1.08	18.57	13.76	3.60
Alma	78	40		1,905	1,985		0.14	0.43	0.91	17.73		
Big Rapids	79	38		1,777	1,835		0.38	0.86	0.92	16.71		
Central	79	38	-6	1,856	1,904	1,932	0.18	0.50	0.91	17.41	14.65	3.64
Bad Axe	78	44		1,728	1,740		0.00	0.42	1.37	16.07		
Pigeon	79	42		1,707	1,730		0.00	0.49	1.14	16.44		
Saginaw	79	42		1,890	1,907		0.03	0.32	0.77	14.70		
Standish	80	37		1,690	1,726		0.05	0.38	1.03	15.13		
East Central	80	37	-6	1,723	1,791	1,923	0.03	0.49	1.57	16.44	13.25	2.93
Fennville	78	44		1,836	1,936		0.16	0.35	1.18	13.87		
Grand Rapids	79	46		2,121	2,030		0.52	1.09	2.13	19.90		
Holland	79	44		1,925	1,975		0.23	0.66	1.63	13.64		
South Bend, IN	80	50		2,250	2,165		0.75	1.97	3.01	19.50		
Watervliet	79	46		2,014	1,979		0.40	0.96	2.87	19.93		
Southwest	81	40	-6	2,012	2,026	2,088	0.35	0.84	1.96	18.20	15.34	3.18
Belding	77	37		1,909	1,928		0.37	0.71	1.74	20.03		
Coldwater	77	48		1,951	1,953		0.04	0.33	1.71	19.59		
Lansing	78	42		1,996	1,984		0.00	0.18	1.65	19.03		
South Central	80	37	-6	1,996	2,014	2,063	0.22	0.62	2.02	19.65	15.36	3.36
Detroit	80	52		2,234	2,219		0.19	0.20	3.46	16.95		
Flint	78	43		2,044	2,083		0.00	0.65	3.00	16.76		
Romeo	80	48		2,017	1,952		0.07	0.27	2.91	20.92		
Tipton	78	47		1,979	1,991		0.34	0.56	2.72	17.08		
Toledo, OH	80	50		2,292	2,202		1.00	1.65	3.23	14.19		
Southeast	84	43	-6	2,047	2,091	2,052	0.26	0.59	3.13	18.30	14.78	3.12

¹ Issued by the Federal/State Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Michigan State University's Cooperative Extension Service, Agricultural Meteorologist, Department of Geography, and Crop Advisory Team ALERTS.

² Growing degree days (GDD) is the sum of daily mean temperatures minus 50 per day, 86 maximum and 50 minimum. The GDD is accumulative from April 1.

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